

TEXAS (Maps were digitized using 1995 and 1996 DOQQs and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Medium Resolution Digital Vector Shoreline)

Unit TX-1: South Bay and Boca Chica. 2,920 ha ( 7,217 ac) in Cameron County.

The boundaries of the unit are: starting at the Loma Ochoa, following the Brownsville Ship Channel to the northeast out into the Gulf of Mexico to MLLW, then south along a line describing MLLW to the mouth of the Rio Grande, proceeding up the Rio Grande to Loma de Las Vacas, then from that point along a straight line north to Loma Ochoa. The unit does not include densely vegetated habitat within those boundaries. It includes wind tidal flats that are infrequently inundated by seasonal winds, and includes the tidal flats area known as South Bay. Beaches within the unit reach from the mouth of the Rio Grande northward to Brazos Santiago Pass, south of South Padre Island. The southern and western boundaries follow the change in habitat from wind tidal flat, preferred by the piping plover, to where densely vegetated habitat, not used by the piping plover, begins and where the constituent elements no longer occur. The upland areas extend to where densely vegetated habitat, not used by the piping plover, begins and where the constituent elements no longer occur and include areas used for roosting by the piping plover. Portions of this unit are owned and managed by the Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge, the South Bay Coastal Preserve, Boca Chica State Park, and private citizens.

Unit TX-2: Queen Isabella Causeway. 2 ha (6 ac) in Cameron County.

The area extends along the Laguna Madre west of the city of South Padre Island. The southern boundary is the Queen Isabella State Fishing Pier, and the northern boundary is at the shoreline due west of the end of Sunny Isles Street. The Queen Isabella causeway bisects this shore but is not included within critical habitat. The eastern boundary is the where developed areas and/or dense vegetation begins, and the western boundary is MLLW. This unit contains lands known as wind tidal flats that are infrequently inundated by seasonal winds.

Unit TX-3: Padre Island. 10,924 ha (26,983 ac) in Cameron, Willacy, Kenedy, and Kleberg Counties.

This unit consists of four subunits:

(1) The southern boundary of this subunit is at Andy Bowie County Park in South Padre Island, and the northern boundary is the south boundary of PAIS. The eastern boundary is MLLW in the Gulf of Mexico, and the western boundary is MLLW in the Laguna Madre. Areas of dense vegetation are not included in critical habitat. This subunit includes lands known as wind tidal flats that are infrequently inundated by seasonal winds.

(2) The boundaries of this subunit extend from Rincon de la Soledad to the southeast point of Mesquite Rincon, continue from that point west to the Laguna Madre shoreline at its intersection with the King Ranch boundary, and from that point to Rincon de la Soledad. This subunit includes lands known as wind tidal flats that are infrequently inundated by seasonal winds.

(3) This subunit is within the Laguna Madre and extends from the western boundary of PAIS to the Gulf Intercoastal Waterway. Its northern boundary is a line extending westward from the northwest corner of PAIS, and its southern boundary is a line extending westward from the southern boundary of PAIS. This subunit includes lands known as wind tidal flats that are infrequently inundated by seasonal

winds.

(4) This subunit extends along the gulf shore of Padre Island from the northern boundary of PIAS at the shore, north to the Nueces-Kleberg county line. The inland boundary is where dense vegetation begins, and the seaward boundary is MLLW. This subunit includes lands known as wind tidal flats that are infrequently inundated by seasonal winds.

Portions of this unit are owned and managed by TGLO, and private citizens with a significant portion being owned and managed by The Nature Conservancy on South Padre Island.

Unit TX-4: Lower Laguna Madre Mainland. 4,980 ha (12,307 ac) in Cameron and Willacy Counties.

The southern boundary is an east-west line at the northern tip of Barclay Island, and the southern boundary is an east-west line 0.9 km (0.5 mi) south of the boundary of the City of Port Mansfield; the western boundary is the line where dense vegetation begins, and the eastern boundary is the Gulf Intercoastal Waterway. The unit includes bayside flats that are exposed during low tide regimes and wind tidal flats that are infrequently inundated by seasonal winds. Portions of this unit are within the Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge, are TGLO-owned, or are privately owned. Beaches and interior wetlands may or may not be used each year because of varying water levels, storm events, or changes in beach characteristics and tidal regime. Water stages vary in this area with meteorological conditions. The upland areas extend to where densely vegetated habitat, not used by the piping plover, begins and where the constituent elements no longer occur and include upland areas used for roosting by the piping plover.

Unit TX-5: Upper Laguna Madre. 436 ha (1,076 ac) in Kleberg County.

The southern boundary is the northern boundary of PAIS, and the northern boundary is the Kleberg/Nueces County line. The eastern boundary is the line where dense vegetation begins, and the western boundary is MLLW. This unit includes a series of small flats along the bayside of Padre Island in the Upper Laguna Madre. It includes wind tidal flats and sparsely-vegetated upland areas used for roosting by the piping plover. These boundaries receive heavy use by large numbers of shorebirds, including piping plovers. The upland areas extend to where densely vegetated habitat, not used by the piping plover, begins and where the constituent elements no longer occur, and include upland areas used for roosting by the piping plover.

Unit TX-6: Mollie Beattie Coastal Habitat. 241 ha (596 ac) in Nueces County.

This unit will be described as two subunits:

(1) Subunit is bounded on the north by Beach Access Road 3, on the east by the inland boundary of critical habitat Unit TX-7, on the south by Zahn road, and on the west by Zahn Road.

(2) The subunit is bounded on the north by Corpus Christi Pass, on the east by US 361, on the south by the north side of Packery Channel, and on the west by the Gulf Intercoastal Watersay.

Some of the uplands are privately owned and the remaining are owned and managed by the TGLO. This unit includes two hurricane washover passes known as Newport and Corpus Christi Passes, and wind tidal flats that are infrequently inundated by seasonal winds. The upland areas extend to where densely vegetated habitat, not used by the piping plover, begins and where the constituent

elements no longer occur and include upland areas used for roosting by the piping plover.

Unit TX-7: Newport Pass/Corpus Christi Pass Beach. 42 ha (104 ac) in Nueces County.

This unit is along a stretch of Gulf beach 8.5 km (5.3 mi) long. It is bounded on the north by Fish Pass, on the east by MLLW, on the south by St. Bartholomew Avenue, and on the west by a line marking the beginning of dense vegetation. Portions of the unit are managed by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department as part of Mustang Island State Park. This unit includes lands known as wind tidal flats that are infrequently inundated by seasonal winds.

Unit TX-8: Mustang Island Beach. 97 ha (239 ac) in Nueces County.

This is a stretch of Gulf beach extending from Fish Pass to the Horace Caldwell Pier on Holiday Beach within the City of Port Aransas, TX. The landward boundary is beginning of dense vegetation, and the gulf-ward boundary is MLLW. This unit includes lands known as wind tidal flats that are infrequently inundated by seasonal winds.

Unit TX-9: Fish Pass Lagoons. 130 ha (323 ac) in Nueces County.

This unit encompasses flats facing Corpus Christi Bay that extend 1.0 km (0.6 mi) on either side of Fish Pass. The inland boundary is the line indicating beginning of dense vegetation, and the bayside boundary is MLLW. It includes interior lagoons and wind tidal flats that are infrequently inundated by seasonal winds. This unit includes upland areas used for roosting by the piping plover.

Unit TX-10: Shamrock Island and Adjacent Mustang Island Flats. 87 ha (216 ac) in Nueces County.

This unit encompasses Shamrock Island, an unnamed small sand flat to the north of Wilson's Cut, and a lagoon complex that extends 3.5 km (2.2 mi) to the southwest of Wilson's Cut. Critical habitat includes land to the line marking the beginning of dense vegetation down to MLLW. This unit includes lands known as wind tidal flats that are infrequently inundated by seasonal winds.

Unit TX-11: Blind Oso. 2 ha (5 ac) in Nueces County.

This unit is the flats of the Blind Oso, part of Oso Bay, from Hans and Pat Suter Wildlife Refuge (owned and managed by the City of Corpus Christi) northeast to Corpus Christi Bay and then southeast along the edge of Texas A&M University--Corpus Christi. The landward boundaries extend to where densely vegetated habitat, not used by the piping plover, begins, and extends out from the landward boundaries to MLLW. This unit includes lands known as wind tidal flats that are infrequently inundated by seasonal winds.

Unit TX-12: Adjacent to Naval Air Station-Corpus Christi. 2 ha (6 ac) in Nueces County.

This unit is along the shore of Oso Bay on flats bordered by Naval Air Station-Corpus Christi and Texas Spur 3 to a point 2.5 km (1.5 mi) south of the bridge between Ward Island and the Naval Air Station. The landward boundary is the line where dense vegetation begins, and the boundary in the Bay is MLLW. This unit includes lands known as wind tidal flats that are infrequently inundated by seasonal winds.

Unit TX-13: Sunset Lake. 176 ha (435 ac) in San Patricio County.

This unit is triangle shaped, with State Highway 181 as the northwest boundary, and the limits of the City of Portland as the northeast boundary. The shore on Corpus Christi Bay is the third side of the triangle, with the actual boundary being MLLW off this shore. This unit is a large basin with a series of tidal ponds, sand spits and wind tidal flats. This unit is owned and managed by the City of Portland within a system of city parks. Some of the described area falls within the jurisdiction of the TGLO. It includes two city park units referred to as Indian Point and Sunset Lake. Much of the unit is a recent acquisition by the city, and management considerations for the park include the area's importance as a site for wintering and resident shorebirds. This unit includes lands known as wind tidal flats that are infrequently inundated by seasonal winds.

Unit TX-14: East Flats. 194 ha (481 ac) in Nueces County.

This unit is bordered on the north by dredge placement areas bordering the Corpus Christi Ship Channel, on the west by MLLW in Corpus Christi Bay, on the east by the limits of the City of Port Aransas, and on the south by an east-west line at the southern-most point of Pelone Island. It is also bisected by a navigation channel, which is not include in the critical habitat. A portion of this unit at the west end falls within State-owned (TGLO) intertidal lands. The remainder of the unit is privately owned. The upland areas extend to where densely vegetated habitat, not used by the piping plover, begins and where the constituent elements no longer occur, including upland areas used for roosting by the piping plover. This unit includes lands known as wind tidal flats that are infrequently inundated by seasonal winds.

Unit TX-15: North Pass. 447 ha (1,106 ac) in Aransas County.

The unit is bounded on north by North Pass, on the northwest by the line indicating MLLW, on the southwest by the northeast side of Lydia Ann Island, on the south by a line running due east from the northeast side of Lydia Ann Island, and on the southeast by the landward boundary of Unit. This unit is a remnant of a hurricane washover on the privately owned San Jose Island. The upland areas extend to where densely vegetated habitat, not used by the piping plover, begins and where the constituent elements no longer occur, including upland areas used for roosting by the piping plover. This unit includes lands known as wind tidal flats that are infrequently inundated by seasonal winds.

Unit TX-16: San Jose Beach. 187 ha (463 ac) in Aransas County.

This unit occupies a 33 km (20 mi) stretch of beach from the North Jetty of Aransas Pass at the south, to the confluence of Vinson Slough and Cedar Bayou at the north end of San Jose Island. The inland boundary is the line indicating the beginning of densely vegetated habitat, and the gulf-ward boundary is MLLW. This unit includes lands known as wind tidal flats that are infrequently inundated by seasonal winds.

Unit TX-17: Allyn's Bight. 5 ha (14 ac) in Aransas County.

This unit includes shoreline of San Jose Island on Aransas Bay from Allyn's Bight to Blind Pass, the channel between San Jose Island and Mud Island. The inland boundary is where the line of dense vegetation begins, and the bay-ward boundary is MLLW. This unit includes lands known as wind tidal flats that are infrequently inundated by seasonal winds.

Unit TX-18: Cedar Bayou/Vinson Slough. 3,051 ha (7,539 ac) in Aransas County.

Beginning at the confluence of Vinson Slough and Cedar Bayou, this unit's boundary follows the shore of Spalding Cove to Long Reef, then continues along a line extending (2.5 mi) southwest of Long Reef to the shore of San Jose Island, then along the shore of the island to the landward boundary of Unit TX-16. The unit boundaries extend landward to the line indicating the beginning of dense vegetation. This unit is a remnant of a hurricane washover area, and includes the highly dynamic area of Cedar Bayou, the pass that separates San Jose Island and Matagorda Island. This area includes a small section of Matagorda Island National Wildlife Refuge with much of the remaining areas occurring on the privately owned island of San Jose. The upland areas extend to where densely vegetated habitat, not used by the piping plover, begins and where the constituent elements no longer occur and include upland areas used for roosting by the piping plover. This unit includes lands known as wind tidal flats that are infrequently inundated by seasonal winds.

Unit TX-19: Matagorda Island Beach. 395 ha (976 ac) in Calhoun County.

This stretch of beach along the Gulf of Mexico on Matagorda Island extends a distance of 60 km (36 mi) from Cedar Bayou on the southwest (where it abuts TX-18), to Pass Cavallo on the northeast. The inland boundary is the line indicating the beginning of dense vegetation, and the gulfward boundary is MLLW. This unit includes lands known as wind tidal flats that are infrequently inundated by seasonal winds. The unit falls entirely within the boundary of the Matagorda Island National Wildlife Refuge.

Unit TX-20: Ayers Point. 397 ha (982 ac) in Calhoun County.

This unit is an unnamed lake on Matagorda Island between Shell Reef Bayou and Big Brundrett Lake, with San Antonio Bay to the north. The unit boundary extends landward from the lake to the line where dense vegetation begins and where the constituent elements no longer occur and includes upland areas used for roosting by the piping plover. This unit includes marsh and flats at Ayers Point on Matagorda Island National Wildlife Refuge. This unit includes lands known as wind tidal flats that are infrequently inundated by seasonal winds.

Unit TX-21: Panther Point to Pringle Lake. 863 ha (2,133 ac) in Calhoun County.

This unit represents a narrow band of bayside habitats on Matagorda Island from Panther Point to the northeast end of Pringle Lake. The landward boundary is the line indicating where dense vegetation begins, and the bayward boundary is MLLW. The unit is entirely within Matagorda Island National Wildlife Refuge. This unit includes lands known as wind tidal flats that are infrequently inundated by seasonal winds.

Unit TX-22: Decros Point. 450 ha (1,114 ac) at the Matagorda/Calhoun County line.

This unit includes about 7.0 km (4.3 mi) of beach habitat around the island at the western tip of Matagorda Peninsula between the natural opening to Matagorda Bay and the Matagorda Ship Channel. The upland boundary is the line where dense vegetation begins, and the seaward boundary is MLLW. The adjacent upland is privately owned. This unit includes lands known as wind tidal flats that are infrequently inundated by seasonal winds.

Unit TX-23: West Matagorda Peninsula Beach. 311 ha (769 ac) of shoreline in Matagorda County.

This unit extends 40 km (24 mi) along the Gulf of Mexico from the jetties at the Matagorda Ship Channel to the old Colorado River channel. The inland boundary is the line indicating where dense vegetation begins, and the gulfside boundary is MLLW. This unit includes lands known as wind tidal flats that are infrequently inundated by seasonal winds.

Unit TX-24: West Matagorda Bay/Western Peninsula Flats. 756 ha (1,868 ac) in Matagorda County.

This unit extends along the bayside of Matagorda Peninsula from 7.5 southwest of Greens Bayou to 2.5 km (1.6 mi) northwest of Greens Bayou. The landward boundary is the line indicating the beginning of dense vegetation, and the bayside boundary is MLLW. This unit includes lands known as wind tidal flats that are infrequently inundated by seasonal winds.

Unit TX-25: West Matagorda Bay/Eastern Peninsula Flats. 232 ha (575 ac) in Matagorda County.

This unit follows the bayside of Matagorda Peninsula from Maverick Slough southwest for 5 km (3 mi). The unit begins at Maverick Slough to the northeast and extends 5 km (3 mi) to the southwest, enclosing a series of flats along Matagorda Bay. The upland areas extend to where densely vegetated habitat, not used by the piping plover, begins and where the constituent elements no longer occur and include upland areas used for roosting by the piping plover. This unit includes lands known as wind tidal flats that are infrequently inundated by seasonal winds.

Unit TX-26: Colorado River Diversion Delta. 5 ha (13 ac) in Matagorda County.

This unit consists follows the shore of the extreme eastern northeast corner of West Matagorda Bay from Culver Cut to Dog Island Reef. The southeastern tidally emergent portion of Dog Island Reef is included within the unit. The landward boundary is the line indicating the beginning of dense vegetation, and the bayside boundary is MLLW. The upland areas includes upland areas used for roosting by the piping plover. This unit includes lands known as wind tidal flats that are infrequently inundated by seasonal winds.

Unit TX-27: East Matagorda Bay/Matagorda Peninsula Beach West. 295 (728 ac) of shoreline in Matagorda County.

This unit extends along Gulf beach on the Matagorda Peninsula from the mouth of the Colorado River northeast along the peninsula 23 km (14 mi) to a point on the beach opposite Eidelbach Flats. The landward boundary is the line indicating the beginning of dense vegetation, and the gulfside boundary is MLLW. This unit includes lands known as wind tidal flats that are infrequently inundated by seasonal winds.

Unit TX-28: East Matagorda Bay/Matagorda Peninsula Beach East. 129 ha (321 ac) in Matagorda County.

This unit extends along the Gulf beach on the northeast end of Matagorda Peninsula from a point 0.8 km (0.5mi) southwest of FM 457 southwest 10 km (6 mi.) to the southwest side of Brown Cedar Cut. This unit abuts with Unit TX-29 to the north. The landward boundary is the line indicating the beginning of dense vegetation, and the gulfside boundary is MLLW. This unit includes lands known

as wind tidal flats that are infrequently inundated by seasonal winds.

Unit TX-29: Brown Cedar Cut. 119 ha (294 ac) in Matagorda County.

This unit extends 2 km (1.2 m.) both southwest and northeast of the main channel of Brown Cedar Cut along the bayside of Matagorda Peninsula in East Matagorda Bay, and abuts unit TX-28 to the southeast. The landward boundary is the line indicating the beginning of dense vegetation, and the bayside boundary is MLLW. The eastern boundary of TX-29 follows the change in habitat from mud flats preferred by the piping plover, to slightly vegetated dune system adjacent to TX-28. This unit includes upland areas used for roosting by the piping plover. This unit includes lands known as wind tidal flats that are infrequently inundated by seasonal winds.

Unit TX-30: Northeast Corner East Matagorda Bay. 120 ha (297 ac) in Matagorda County.

This unit is bounded on the north by the Gulf Intercoastal Waterway, on the east by the northeast limit of Matagorda bay up the line where dense vegetation begins, on the south by the boundary of Unit TX-28, and on the west by MLLW. It is a system of flats associated with tidal channels. This unit includes upland areas used for roosting by the piping plover and lands known as wind tidal flats that are infrequently inundated by seasonal winds.

Unit TX-31: San Bernard NWR Beach. 166 ha (410 ac) in Matagorda and Brazoria Counties.

This unit is composed of Gulf beach, 8.0 km (5.0 mi), and extends from the mouth of the San Bernard River to a point along the beach 14.0 km (8.7 mi) to the southwest. The landward boundary is the line indicating the beginning of dense vegetation, and the gulfside boundary is MLLW. This unit includes lands known as wind tidal flats that are infrequently inundated by seasonal winds.

Unit TX-32: Gulf Beach Between Brazos and San Bernard Rivers. 108 ha (269 ac) of shoreline in Brazoria County.

This unit is a segment of Gulf beach between the Brazos River and the San Bernard River. This unit borders an area known as Wolf Island. The landward boundary is the line indicating the beginning of dense vegetation, and the gulfside boundary is MLLW. This unit includes lands known as wind tidal flats that are infrequently inundated by seasonal winds.

Unit TX-33: Bryan Beach and Adjacent Beach. 157 ha (388 ac) in Brazoria County.

The boundaries enclose a length of Gulf beach between the mouth of the Brazos River and FM 1495. The landward boundary is the line indicating the beginning of dense vegetation, and the gulfside boundary is MLLW. A portion of this area is owned and managed by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. This unit includes lands known as wind tidal flats that are infrequently inundated by seasonal winds.

Unit TX-34: San Luis Pass. 110 ha (272 ac) near the Brazoria/Galveston County line.

This unit extends along the Gulf side of Galveston Island from San Luis Pass to the site of the former town of Red Fish Cove (USGS 1:24,000 map, San Luis Pass, Texas; 1963, photorevision 1974). The landward boundary is the line indicating the beginning of dense vegetation, and the gulfside boundary is MLLW. Approximately 57 percent of the unit includes flats in the floodtide delta that are

State-owned and managed by the TGLO. This unit includes lands known as wind tidal flats that are infrequently inundated by seasonal winds.

Unit TX-35: Big Reef. 47 ha (117 ac) in Galveston County.

This unit consists of beach and sand flats on the north, west, and east shore of Big Reef, down to MLLW. South Jetty is not included. The area is currently managed by the City of Galveston. This unit includes lands known as wind tidal flats that are infrequently inundated by seasonal winds.

Unit TX-36: Bolivar Flats. 160 ha (395 ac) in Galveston County.

This unit extends from the jetties on the southwest end of the Bolivar Peninsula to a point on the Gulf beach 1 km (0.6 mi) north of Beacon Bayou. It includes 5.0 km (3 mi) of Gulf shoreline. The landward boundary is the line indicating the beginning of dense vegetation, and the gulfside boundary is MLLW. The area is leased from TGLO by Houston Audubon Society and managed for its important avian resources. The upland areas are used for roosting by the piping plover. This unit includes lands known as wind tidal flats that are infrequently inundated by seasonal winds.

Unit TX-37: Rollover Pass. 6 ha (16 ac) in Galveston County.

This unit consists of Rollover Bay on the bayside of Bolivar Peninsula. The landward boundary is the line indicating the beginning of dense vegetation, and the bayside boundary is MLLW. It includes flats on State-owned land managed by the TGLO. This unit captures the intertidal complex of the bay, and is bounded by the towns of Gilchrist to the east and the Gulf beach of the Bolivar Peninsula to the south. This unit includes lands known as wind tidal flats that are infrequently inundated by seasonal winds.